

Oak Street Drum Disposal Area Update

April 2003- Issue No. 4

A public informational meeting has been scheduled for 7:00 pm on May 6, 2003 at the Mulcahey School located at 28 Clifford Street in Taunton, MA.

The public meeting will provide information on the Oak Street Disposal Area. Representatives of EPA and Zeneca are expected to attend.

Public Meeting

This informal meeting will provide an opportunity for interested members of the community to meet with personnel handling the excavation and removal of drums found at the Site, and to ask questions regarding the Site and the drum removal project. Frank Gardner of the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) will participate in the meeting.

The meeting will be devoted to a discussion of the Oak Street Drum Disposal Area. Topics to be discussed will include a summary of the work completed to date at the Site, and activities which are expected to be carried out in the near future.

Background

Earlier this year, Zeneca Inc. entered into an agreement with the EPA to complete EPA's cleanup activities at the Oak Street Drum Disposal Area. These activities include excavation and offsite transport of buried drums, associated waste, and contaminated soil. This project is similar to the drum removal projects recently completed at the St. Germain and Route 44 Sites on Winthrop Street.

This fact sheet updates a previous fact sheet issued by US EPA. For further information regarding this Site, please contact Carol Dickerson, Zeneca Site Coordinator, at (302) 886-5123 or Frank Gardner, EPA On-Scene Coordinator, at (617) 918-1278.

The Site was used for the disposal of construction debris, asphalt, scrap metal, and drums of waste material. It appears that the disposal activities occurred from the late 1950s or early 1960s through the 1980s and involved the disposal of waste material in an area where the property slopes steeply down to a ravine.

EPA began removal work at the Site in June 12, 2002, excavating between 70 and 80 drums by mid-December, 2002. In March, 2003 Zeneca Inc. entered into an agreement with EPA to complete removal of the remaining buried drums at the Oak Street Drum Disposal Site, and to properly dispose of the drums and of the contaminated waste and soil associated with those drums.



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Status of Site Activities

Zeneca's contractors began setup activities at the Site in March 2003, establishing environmental monitoring systems and preparing the Site for the upcoming drum excavation work. A series of plans for removal of the remaining drums at the Site were developed and submitted to the EPA for approval. EPA approved those plans, and the drum removal work commenced in mid-April. The excavation work is expected to be completed by mid-May, with the remaining closeout activities taking another 4 to 6 weeks.

Planning to Assure Public Safety

Safety is the highest concern for this project. In order to minimize vapor emissions, the drum removal work is being conducted before the onset of warm weather. In addition, comprehensive air monitoring will be conducted during all drum excavation activities.

Onsite Activities

Zeneca's contractors have completed setup activities at the Site. Setup of the site included:

- Setup of project support area and office trailers, and connection of phone, electrical and water services.
- Construction and implementation of the perimeter air monitoring network.
- Construction of material handling and storage area (drums and rolloff containers).

Zeneca's contractors have also commenced drum removal work. As of April 22, 105 drums have been excavated. Drum removal is anticipated to be completed by mid-May.

The Public Should Exercise Caution

Due to the contamination found at the Site and commencement of drum excavation activities, the Site constitutes a restricted area and a potential risk to persons who trespass. Although the fencing and signage around the Site will clearly indicate this risk, nearby residents should be aware that Site workers will be storing, operating, and moving heavy equipment both on and off the Site. Residents are asked to help in this cleanup effort by warning children and others not to enter the restricted work area at any time.